

INSIGHTS

4.0%
June
Unemployment Rate

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S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

Business Intelligence Department

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Economic Indicators

June - Seasonally Adjusted (SA)

	United States	S.C.
Labor Force	160,145,000	2,321,592
Employed	153,168,000	2,229,882
Unemployed	6,977,000	91,710
Unemp. Rate	4.4%	4.0%

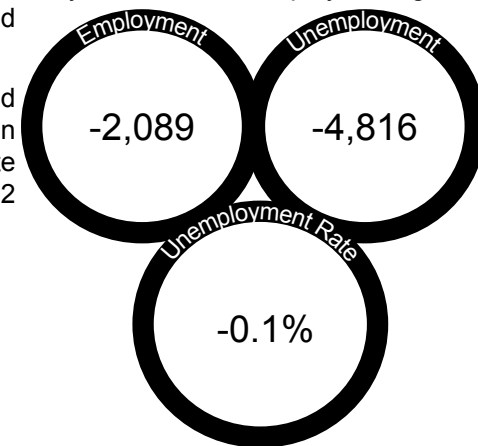
Unemployment rate hits 4 percent,
number of unemployed drops by 4,800

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell for the third consecutive month to its lowest level since December 2000. The June rate dropped to 4 percent from 4.1 percent in May.

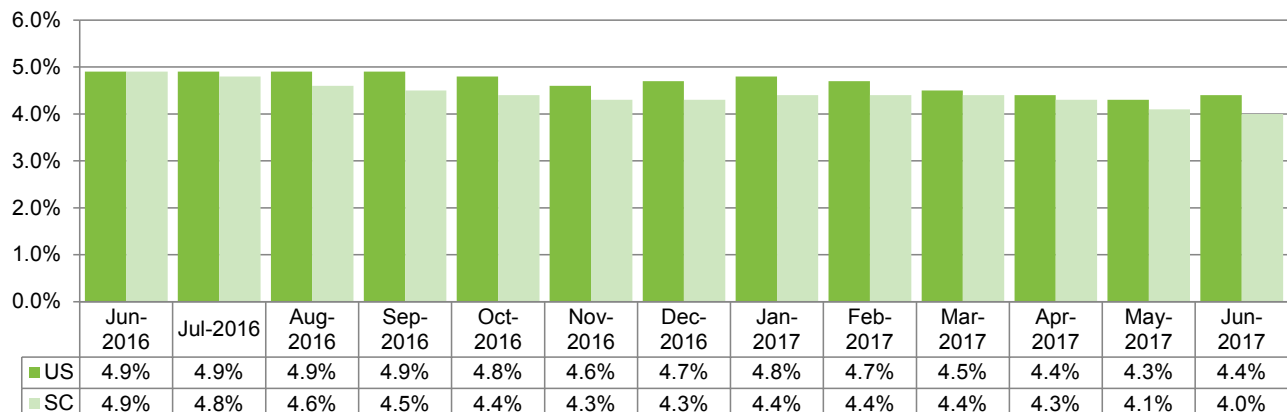
The number of unemployed people dropped in June by 4,816 to 91,710, the lowest level since February 2001. The state's labor force decreased by 6,905 people to 2,321,592, as the number of people working declined by 2,089 to 2,229,882.

Since June 2016, the labor force has grown by 24,625, and employment gains totaled 45,949. The level of unemployed people decreased by 21,324.

Nationally, the unemployment rate increased from 4.3 percent in May to 4.4 percent in June. South Carolina's unemployment rate has remained below the national rate for 12 consecutive months.



South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
June 2016 - June 2017



Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2016 benchmark. To subscribe to *Insights*, please email bidcustomerservice@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [BID Customer Feedback Form](#).

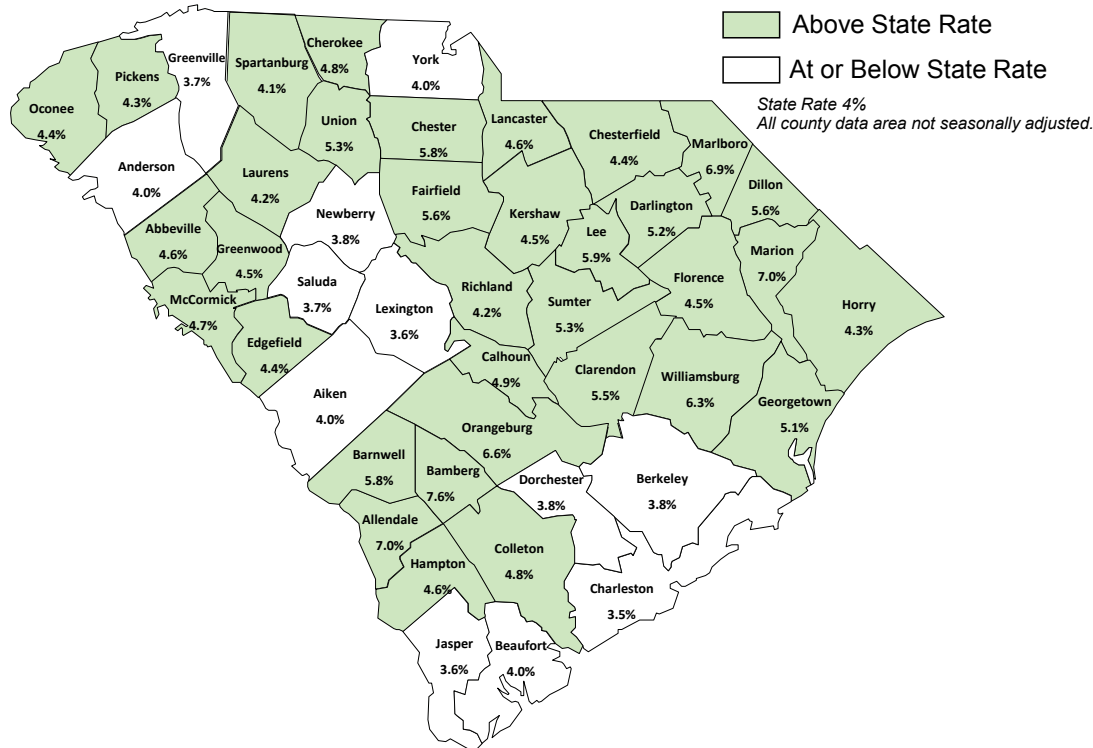
South Carolina ranked 28th highest of 50 states and D.C. in June

Unemployment rates were lower in June in 10 states, higher in two states, and stable in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-seven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier and 23 states and the District had little or no change. In June, South Carolina ranked 28th highest out of 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 14 states in June 2017 and was essentially unchanged in 36 states and the District of Columbia. The largest increase in employment over the month occurred in Texas (+40,200), followed by Georgia (+27,400) and New York (+26,000). Over the year, 33 states added nonfarm payroll jobs and 17 states and the District were essentially unchanged. The largest percentage gain occurred in Nevada (+3.8 percent), followed by Utah (+3.0 percent) and Florida (+2.9 percent).

June unemployment rate by county

Not seasonally adjusted county unemployment rates were higher across the state during June. Overall, county unemployment rates ranged from 7.6 percent in Bamberg County to 3.5 percent in Charleston County. Seasonal increases in the labor force were reflected in the nearly all the counties. Growth in employment and unemployment levels rose as more people searched for work during June. Horry, Beaufort, Lexington, and Charleston counties set the pace for employment growth over the month. Greenville, Aiken, Sumter, and Richland counties marked respectable increases as well. Over the year Charleston, York, Richland, Horry, Spartanburg, and Greenville counties have recorded more than 50 percent of the state's employment growth. Employment growth in rural counties around the state remains elusive.



Alaska	6.8
New Mexico	6.4
District of Columbia	6.2
Louisiana	5.5
Arizona	5.1
Kentucky	5.1
Connecticut	5.0
Mississippi	5.0
Ohio	5.0
Pennsylvania	5.0
Georgia	4.8
California	4.7
Delaware	4.7
Illinois	4.7
Nevada	4.7
Alabama	4.6
Texas	4.6
West Virginia	4.6
New York	4.5
Washington	4.5
United States	4.4
Massachusetts	4.3
Oklahoma	4.3
North Carolina	4.2
Rhode Island	4.2
Florida	4.1
Maryland	4.1
New Jersey	4.1
South Carolina	4.0
Montana	3.9
Wyoming	3.9
Michigan	3.8
Missouri	3.8
Kansas	3.7
Minnesota	3.7
Oregon	3.7
Virginia	3.7
Tennessee	3.6
Maine	3.5
Arkansas	3.4
Utah	3.4
Iowa	3.2
Vermont	3.2
Idaho	3.1
Wisconsin	3.1
Indiana	3.0
South Dakota	3.0
Nebraska	2.9
New Hampshire	2.9
Hawaii	2.7
Colorado	2.3
North Dakota	2.3

June 2017

Highest County Unemployment Rates		Lowest County Unemployment Rates	
Bamberg	7.6%	Charleston	3.5%
Allendale	7.0%	Jasper	3.6%
Marion	7.0%	Lexington	3.6%
Marlboro	6.9%	Greenville	3.7%
Orangeburg	6.6%	Saluda	3.7%

June 2017

Economic Indicators Average Hours & Earnings		
	United States (SA)	S.C. (Unadj.)
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$1,081.61	\$820.44
Avg. Weekly Hours	39.2	43.0
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$26.51	\$19.08

South Carolina seasonally adjusted nonfarm employment trend for June

In June 2017, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased by 500 over the month to reach a level of 2,080,000.

The increase in employment was primarily due to growth in Manufacturing (+1,600). Additional growth was in Professional and Business Services (+600); Education and Health Services (+500); Government (+400); and Financial Activities (+200).

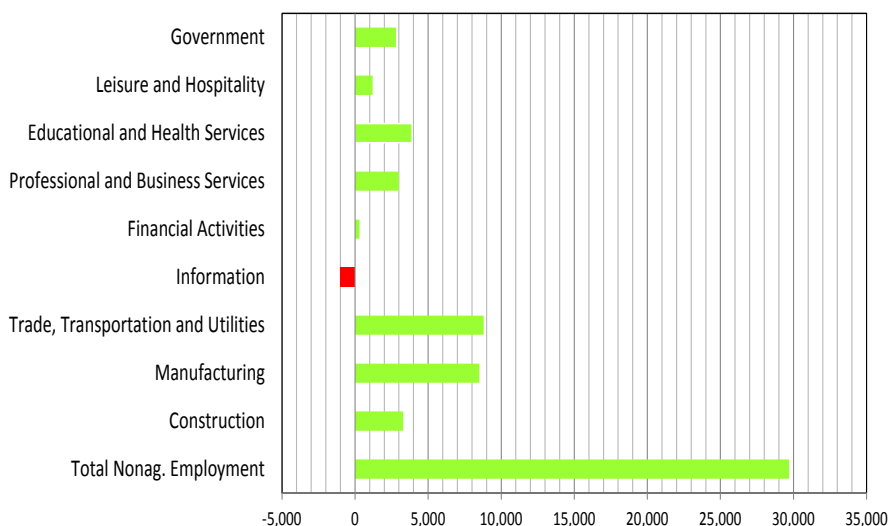
Industries reporting declines during the same period occurred in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-900); Leisure and Hospitality (-700); Construction (-600); Other Services (-400); and Information (-100) sectors.

Over the year growth in nonfarm employment was 29,700. Growth with noticeable gains occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,800); Manufacturing (+8,500); Education and Health Services (+3,900); Construction (+3,300); Professional and Business Services (+3,000); Government (+2,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,200); and Financial Activities (+300). Decreases were reported in Other Services (-1,200) and Information (-1,000).

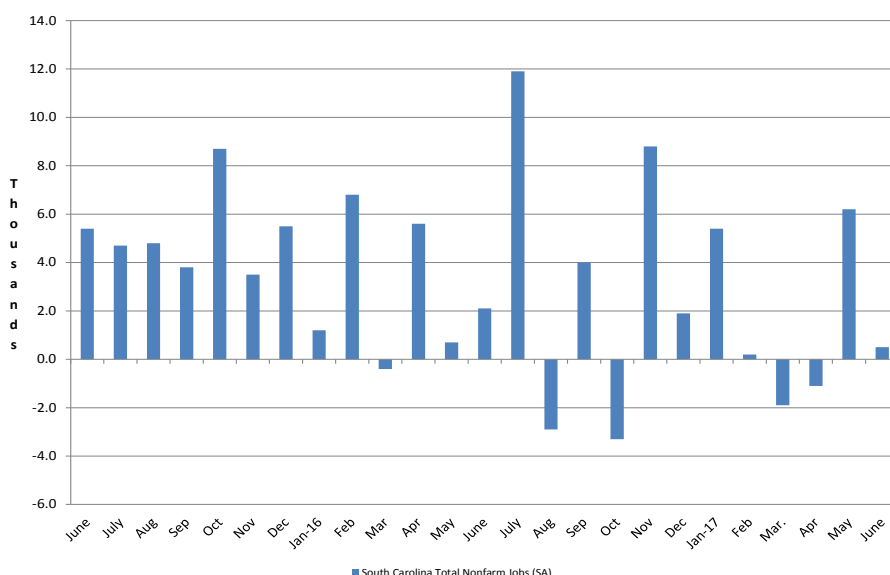
Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll employment saw over-the-month increases. The most notable increase was reported in Columbia (+1,700). Additional increases were: Spartanburg (+500); Florence (+400); Sumter (+400); and Greenville (+100). Myrtle Beach (-3,000) declined considerably, while Charleston (-200) fell slightly.

Over the year, growth occurred in every Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted payroll.

**South Carolina Job Changes by Industry
June 2016 - June 2017 (SA)**



**S.C. Total Nonfarm Jobs
2015 - 2017**



Economic Indicators (June 2017)

Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)

	Over Month % Change	Over Year % Change
Sumter MSA	1.02%	0.51%
Florence MSA	0.44%	3.33%
Columbia MSA	0.43%	1.27%
Charleston MSA	-0.06%	1.85%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to

www.SCWorkforceInfo.com

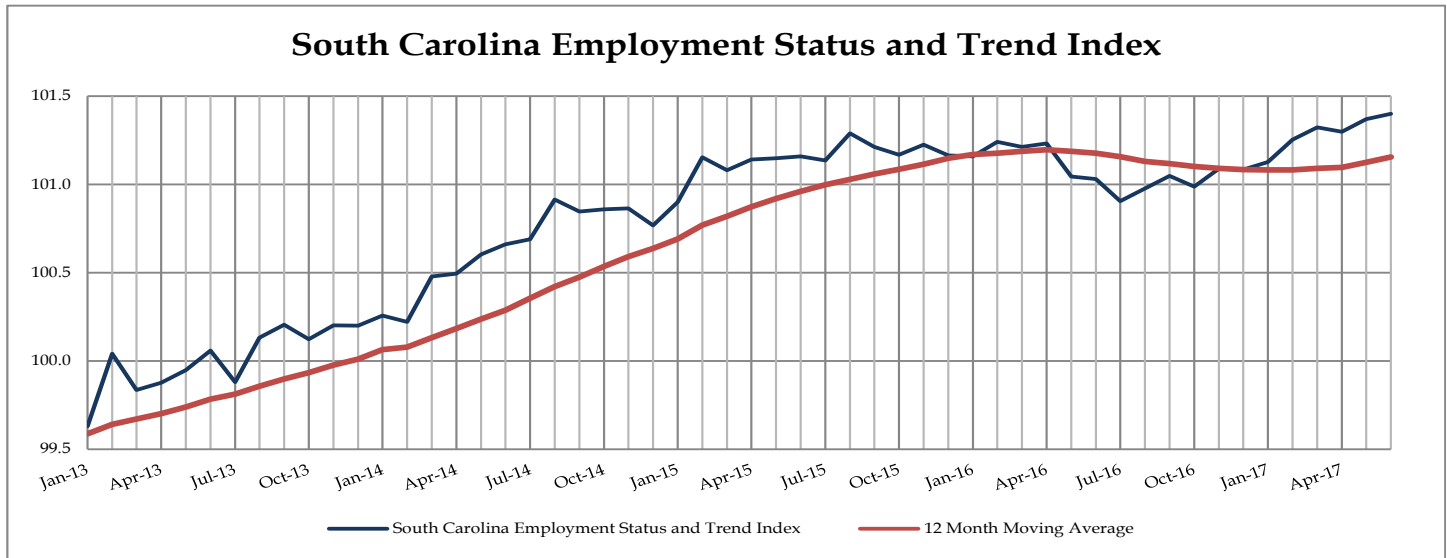
(Employment and Wage Data section)

Employment Changes by County

April 2017 through June 2017

County	Employment			Net Change From	
	Jun 2017	May 2017	Apr 2017	May '17 - Jun '17	Apr '17 - May '17
Abbeville	9,914	9,892	9,873	22	19
Aiken	72,507	71,703	73,465	804	-1,762
Allendale	2,524	2,468	2,462	56	6
Anderson	86,725	86,525	86,424	200	101
Bamberg	4,917	4,844	4,838	73	6
Barnwell	7,925	7,849	7,892	76	-43
Beaufort	72,842	71,394	70,719	1,448	675
Berkeley	94,206	93,854	93,936	352	-82
Calhoun	6,683	6,618	6,614	65	4
Charleston	201,274	200,454	200,086	820	368
Cherokee	22,544	22,487	22,523	57	-36
Chester	13,211	13,165	13,136	46	29
Chesterfield	21,422	21,246	21,172	176	74
Clarendon	12,385	12,207	12,196	178	11
Colleton	16,571	16,459	16,387	112	72
Darlington	29,306	29,131	29,082	175	49
Dillon	12,363	12,184	12,162	179	22
Dorchester	73,301	73,003	73,035	298	-32
Edgefield	10,458	10,287	10,494	171	-207
Fairfield	9,603	9,530	9,540	73	-10
Florence	64,348	64,217	64,043	131	174
Georgetown	24,839	24,550	24,405	289	145
Greenville	239,246	238,806	238,587	440	219
Greenwood	30,135	30,004	29,995	131	9
Hampton	8,092	7,913	7,874	179	39
Horry	143,031	140,676	138,544	2,355	2,132
Jasper	12,088	11,847	11,646	241	201
Kershaw	28,356	28,146	28,183	210	-37
Lancaster	36,860	36,766	36,647	94	119
Laurens	29,370	29,258	29,185	112	73
Lee	6,230	6,147	6,157	83	-10
Lexington	144,021	143,201	143,410	820	-209
McCormick	3,280	3,264	3,271	16	-7
Marion	12,087	11,963	11,912	124	51
Marlboro	8,645	8,585	8,585	60	0
Newberry	18,656	18,380	18,361	276	19
Oconee	33,410	33,208	33,154	202	54
Orangeburg	33,170	32,893	32,827	277	66
Pickens	54,753	54,658	54,555	95	103
Richland	194,746	194,056	194,716	690	-660
Saluda	8,815	8,603	8,567	212	36
Spartanburg	139,607	139,292	139,762	315	-470
Sumter	42,345	41,815	42,273	530	-458
Union	11,271	11,243	11,273	28	-30
Williamsburg	11,947	11,839	11,825	108	14
York	128,216	128,086	127,681	130	405

South Carolina Employment Status and Trend Index Rises



The S.C. Employment Status and Trend Index (SCESTI), an aggregate of five labor-market indicators, rose in June 2017, increasing to 101.40, an all-time high, from 101.37 in May. The Index remained above its 12-month moving average, which rose four-hundredths of a point to 101.16 in June.

Three of the five underlying labor-market components moved in a positive direction in June, and two moved in a negative direction. The Conference Board's Help Wanted Online data, which tracks the number of available job openings posted online, rose by 571 in June to 63,440 from 62,869 in May. The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index climbed by 1.3 points from May's revised value of 117.6 to 118.9 in June. The Bureau of Labor Statistic's Weekly Manufacturing Hours data showed production hours edged up by 0.4 hours per week in June to 42.3 average hours per week from 41.9 average hours per week in May. Initial claims for Unemployment Insurance rose from a May average of 2,648 per week to a June average of 2,795 per week. The Conference Board's Employment Trends Index fell in June to 133.07 points from a May revised value of 133.32.

SCESTI has increased from its year-ago value of 101.03 in June 2016. With the Index remaining above its 12-month moving average, this signifies a positive employment trend over the next several months.

Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil

With today's technological advances, medical breakthroughs, and ancient discoveries, how many of us take the time to appreciate the little things that have a big impact on our lives? Now that you are thinking about this, let's reflect on three occupations and senses all of us sometimes take for granted; audiologists (hearing), optometrists (seeing), and speech-language pathologists (speaking).

Audiologists assess and treat persons with hearing and related disorders. They may fit hearing aids, provide auditory training, and perform research related to hearing problems. Audiologists must be able to listen without interruption, have critical thinking skills, comprehend written words and paragraphs, speak with clarity, and have the ability to understand new information to assist with problem solving and decision making. The average pay in S.C. in 2016 was \$69,440 annually.

Optometrists diagnose, manage, and treat conditions and diseases of the human eye and visual system. They examine eyes and visual systems, diagnose problems or impairments, prescribe corrective lenses, and provide treatment. They may also prescribe therapeutic drugs to treat specific eye conditions. Just as medical doctors, optometrists must stay abreast of the latest medical advancements and treatments. On average in S.C. in 2016, they made \$131,650 annually.

Speech-language pathologists assess and treat people with speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. They may select alternative communication systems and teach patients how to use them. They may also perform research related to speech and language problems. Speech-language pathologists must have knowledge of structure and content of the English language. Similar to the audiologist, they must be able to listen without interruption, speak with clarity, and have the ability to understand new concepts to correct learning disabilities. Speech-language pathologist and audiologist consult each other to evaluate the best solution for any given situation. Pathologists in S.C. in 2016 made \$71,650 annually.

Without audiologists, optometrists, and speech-language pathologists, our lives would be deeply impacted by our inability to communicate effectively. Communication remains the key to our successes and failures in life.